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- *Interviews with the Miles family*

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Virginia family to be featured in national TV special on adoption

Richmond, Va. – A Virginia family will be featured in the national television special, *A Home for the Holidays*, slated to air on CBS on Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 8 p.m. EST. The program is sponsored by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, created by the founder of Wendy's, who was adopted as a child.

Each December, the Foundation and Children's Action Network present the network television special, bringing together an all-star cast to raise awareness for foster care and adoption. *A Home for the Holidays* shares, through the eyes of a child, the joy of having a family – not just for the holidays, but every day and forever. The Richmond-area Miles family is one of three families from around the country featured this year.

David and Betsy Miles and their two adopted children, Haisten and Katy, recently returned to their Richmond home after filming the program in Los Angeles. “During the taping, actress Rene Russo presented our son, Haisten, with a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Dave Thomas Foundation. That was very exciting. There are no words to describe how that made us feel,” Betsy said.

But despite being thrust into the national spotlight, the Miles family considers itself very normal and settled. “While we don’t feel our story is all that special, we take every opportunity we can to talk about adopting children from foster care. We feel it is an important message to share,” Betsy said.



- *Listen to Betsy and other members of the Miles family*

David and Betsy’s adoption of their children became final last year. Both Haisten and Katy were placed with the couple in 2005. “David and I always wanted to adopt children. That was always our plan. Originally, we were set up to adopt Katy. Then we were asked to take Haisten temporarily as an emergency placement. Suddenly, we had a 14-year-old boy. He was scared. We were scared. But we knew it was our job to make him as comfortable as possible. Later we learned we might be able to adopt him, and the rest is history. Katy came a little later, and now they are just like any other brother and sister,” Betsy explained.

Indeed they are; the two laugh and tease with each other and their parents just like biological siblings. Both children agree that adoption has enhanced their lives.

“My first Christmas here was very emotional. Mom and Dad comforted me, and now, everything is great. They take care of me, comfort me, clothe me, feed me, and pay attention to me. They’re good to me,” said Haisten, who recently turned 18.

Like many 13-year-olds, Katy hopes to be a veterinarian when she grows up. But she has one other goal, too. “I want to be a foster-adoptive parent,” she said. “The best part about being adopted is getting a forever family.”

For more information on adoption, visit www.dss.virginia.gov. For details on the CBS special featuring the Miles family, go to www.davethomasfoundation.com.

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Editor’s note: To arrange interviews with the Miles family or foster care/adoption placement professionals, please contact Carla Harris at 804-726-7107 or carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov.